

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

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TAGS: AORG, APER, UN, GW

SUBJECT: FRG POSITION ON UN PAY INCREASE

REF: STATE 249415

1. IN NOVEMBER 15 CALL ON DR. HILLGER, WHO HEADS FONOFF DESK DEALING WITH UN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL QUESTIONS, EMBOFF EXPLAINED US OPPOSITION TO THE PROPOSED UN PAY INCREASE AND ASKED FOR FRG SUPPORT. EMBOFF PRESENTED HILLGER WITH A COPY OF THE AIDE MEMOIRE CONTAINED IN PARA 14 OF REFTEL. HILLGER COMMENTED THAT THE AIDE MEMOIRE RAISED SOME INTERESTING POINTS WHICH THE FRG WOULD STUDY CAREFULLY; AT THE SAME TIME, THE FRG'S INCLINATION, AS ALREADY INDICATED TO US AT OUR BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS BEFORE THE 29TH UNGA (BONN 14609, PARA 33) CONTINUED TO BE TO SUPPORT THE PAY INCREASE.

2. HILLGER DID NOT QUESTION THE FIGURES USED IN THE US AIDE MEMOIRE AND SAID THEY WOULD BE STUDIED CLOSELY. HOWEVER, HE SAID THE FRG WAS FACED WITH CERTAIN PRACTICAL PROBLEMS DISTINGUISHING IT FROM MOST OTHER UN MEMBERS. THE RECENCY OF ITS MEMBERSHIP MEANT THAT THE

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NUMBER OF UN EMPLOYEES PROVIDED BY THE FRG WAS NOWHERE

NEAR IN PROPORTION TO THE SIZE OF ITS BUDGETARY CONTRIBUTION AND AS A CONSEQUENCE THE FRG HAD MUCH CATCHING UP TO DO. FOR THIS PURPOSE, UN POSITIONS HAD TO BE MADE ATTRACTIVE TO QUALIFIED FRG NATIONALS. THE FRG WAS NOT CONVINCED THAT CURRENT UN SALARY LEVELS WERE COMPETITIVE WITH THE LEVEL OF REMUNERATION FOR CORRESPONDING POSITIONS IN WEST GERMANY. THIS DOUBT WAS STRENGTHENED BY THE FACT THAT SOME FRG NATIONALS ALREADY EMPLOYED BY THE UN HAD PROTESTED TO THE FRG THAT THEIR SALARIES WERE INADEQUATE AND HAD EVEN GONE SO FAR AS TO PETITION FOR SUPPLEMENTARY COMPENSATION FROM BONN.

3. HILLGER DID NOT USE THE ARGUMENT THAT UN EMPLOYEES WERE "LIKE DIPLOMATS" BUT HE DID SAY THAT GETTING FRG NATIONALS TO TAKE POSITIONS IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES, AS A PRACTICAL MATTER, REQUIRED SOME SORT OF BONUS COMPENSATION--NOT BECAUSE OF DIFFERENCES IN THE COST OF LIVING AS SUCH BUT BECAUSE IT IS MORE DIFFICULT TO LIVE EFFICIENTLY IN UNFAMILIAR SURROUNDINGS THAN IN ONE'S OWN COUNTRY. EMBOFF POINTED OUT THAT ADDED DIFFICULTY OF LIVING ABROAD WOULD APPEAR TO BE ADEQUATELY COMPENSATED FOR BY THE FACT THAT UN RATES ALREADY EXCEEDED THE RATES OF THE HIGHEST PAID CIVIL SERVANT BY 18-40 PERCENT.

4. IN CONCLUSION, HILLGER UNDERTOOK TO STUDY THE US AIDE MEMOIRE CAREFULLY AND TO INFORM THE FRG-UN DELEGATION OF OUR DEMARCHES. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE US AND FRG DELEGATIONS STAY IN CLOSE TOUCH ON THIS ISSUE.
HILLENBRAND

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